

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
INDEPENDENCE, CA
APRIL 3, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Are the program areas all equal or are some of them prioritized?
2. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 4, "Program Goals," bullet 2: Equitable distribution, does that apply regionally?** What are you getting at?
3. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 8, "Aid in the Preservation of Working Landscapes": Expand this to include local value enhancement to products already produced on working landscapes, such as natural beef produced here and then also processed here rather than elsewhere.**
4. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 10, "Assisting the Regional Economy through the Operation of the Conservancy's Program": It would be helpful for Inyo and Mono Counties for SNC to help them acquire land for economic development.
5. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 10, "Assisting the Regional Economy": Include the importance of acquiring land near existing communities.
6. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 12-13, "Acquisitions": In regards to grants and loans to public agencies, add "local" in front of "public." The concern is that someone from the Department of Fish and Game wants to purchase private land and goes to SNC for money.
7. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 12-13, "Acquisitions": How is "interest in real property" defined?** For example, a conservation easement, is that defined as an "interest" in the property? How about a buyout of development rights?
8. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 12-13, "Acquisitions," (2): Happy to see that SNC will require information on the manner in which the land will be managed.
9. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 17, "Adequacy of design": Maybe projects could be evaluated on providing for adequacy of design because applicants may not have the resources to complete design up front.**

GRANT GUIDELINES
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 1, bullet 6: Six million dollars is available to each subregion. What happens, for example, if twelve million

dollars in good projects are submitted. What will SNC do? Give everyone half of their request?

2. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Eligible Projects": Lists seven program areas, and then refers to smaller range of eligible projects. This is confusing.**
3. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Eligible Applicants": Assume that by this section you mean Federal government (i.e. money for) or the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), since there is very little private land in the watershed in this area. Do we go to the U.S. Forest Service and say we want a watershed program?
4. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Eligible Projects," item 4, bullet 6: The "improvement of physical structures" needs to be clarified.**
5. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Eligible Applicants": What if a group doesn't fit? They're not really a nonprofit. Can they go out and find a nonprofit to partner with? Will these categories stay the same unless the law changes?**
6. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, pages 6-7, "Project Evaluation": One goal should be to aid communities facing disproportionate economic and environmental burdens. Maybe translate that into the evaluation criteria (weighting).**
7. Page 12 of the Grant Guidelines mentioned a less-formal application for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs). Will the process be simple enough for SNC staff to hold the hand of layman applicants so they don't need a professional grant writer?
8. **Can SNC provide matching funds?** For example, if a grant opportunity from a different organization requires matching funds, can SNC help?
9. Will SNC establish a point system giving weight to projects with multiple partners? Sometimes this works and sometimes not.
10. **Does SNC anticipate giving partial grants?** For example, if an applicant applies for \$50,000 and SNC approves \$25,000 contingent on an applicant finding the matching funds elsewhere.
11. **\$10,000 to one agency can make a huge difference, and maybe not so much to another necessarily (one with more money). How can this difference be weighted, the difference in impact?** Theoretically one really good project could take a lot of money.
12. **Will there be money to help with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance?** Would CEQA/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance have to be done by the time the project is submitted?
13. **How about restoring or improving wildlife viewing areas, would that be eligible for Prop. 84 funding? Regarding money for transportation, would that include bike paths to keep people in an area, but still allow enjoyment of the valley the way it is?**

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. The Owens River section is being re-watered, which is a fantastic feat. We need a program people can use to see the river and how it is being restored; seminars or trails, for example. The common man needs to see what's going on. Could SNC help with funding, and/or with the dialogue with LADWP regarding this?
2. Could SNC mitigate the lack of funding over time? Is one intent of SNC to act as a clearinghouse for info for applicants to help them find other money?
3. Comment from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF): CDF is not competing for local grants. We are here to assist with CEQA compliance, watershed improvement, wildfire risk reduction, etc. We will soon have a chief officer, Larry Martinez, here, and you can call him at the Owens Valley Camp for assistance at (760) 387-2565.

SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Working landscapes
2. Economic development
3. Watershed restoration
4. Tourism/recreation
5. CEQA/NEPA compliance
6. Fire risk reduction